



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Health Officers **H.O.# 03-023**  
Nursing Directors  
Communicable Disease Directors  
Directors of Nursing

**FROM:** Leslie Edwards, MHS, Chief (Acting)  
Division of Outbreak Investigation

**THROUGH:** David Blythe, MD, MPH  
State Epidemiologist (Acting)

**DATE:** April 10, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Directive Requiring Mandatory Reporting of SARS Case Information  
and Prevention of Transmission of SARS

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Today the Maryland Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Nelson Sabatini, signed a directive requiring mandatory reporting of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) case information and prevention of transmission of SARS. The directive is attached and will be posted on our web site: [www.edcp.org](http://www.edcp.org). It has been faxed to ED Directors, and ICP's, and e-mailed to Health Officers.

The Secretary now requires healthcare providers to immediately report to the health department any patient who meets the case definition for a suspect SARS definition. In addition, the health department will work with providers about issues related to quarantine and isolation for suspect SARS cases and their close contacts.

Please note that knowledge about SARS is evolving rapidly. For the most recent information about SARS refer to the DHMH web page at the following internet address: [www.edcp.org](http://www.edcp.org). Additional information is located on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web page ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) and the World Health Organization's web site ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)).

If you have any questions about SARS please contact the Division of Outbreak Investigation at 410-767-6700.

cc: Diane Matuszak, MD, MPH, DHMH  
Rich Stringer, DHMH  
John Krick, PhD, DHMH